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October 14, 1976

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for Frank Sullivan, Chief Counsel,  
Senate Armed Services Committee

1. Messrs. [ ] OSR; [ ] OCI; [ ]  
[ ], OSR; [ ] OLC; and I spent better than  
two hours today discussing NATO and Warsaw Pact postures, arms  
standards in NATO, and Soviet naval activities in the Mediter-  
ranean. This briefing was requested by Mr. Sullivan to pro-  
vide him with background before he, Senator Nunn, and Senator  
Bartlett visit various NATO installations in early November.

2. [ ] began the briefing with a general descrip-  
tion of the balance of forces pointing out that the Soviets  
were in a somewhat better position than NATO on tanks and  
artillery while NATO has the edge in tactical air. In general,  
the two forces tend to balance each other. Mr. Sullivan raised  
the question of warning time before a Pact attack. We replied  
that we felt it would take four days to a week to get the for-  
ward divisions in position and that within this period there  
would certainly be sufficient indications to alert policymakers.  
We pointed out to Mr. Sullivan that a campaign in Europe would  
not take place in a vacuum, but would be preceded by a number  
of things elsewhere in the world including heightened political  
tension. We also discussed the readiness of the European satel-  
lite forces noting in response to Sullivan's query that military  
planners would have to assume these divisions would do what they  
were told, but in the real world we doubted that the Soviets  
would feel the Czechs and Poles were completely reliable allies.  
There was a good deal of discussion about qualitative force com-  
parison. We took the position that while it is possible to com-  
pare characteristics of various weapons systems, it was quite  
difficult to compare the human factor.

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3. [ ] discussed recent steps which suggest some progress may be made in NATO on weapons standardization. He informed Sullivan that there is some reason to feel the Germans and French are beginning to look more favorably on US participation in some standardization forum. [ ] described Soviet naval posture in the Mediterranean; said it was closely keyed in its role to that of Soviet ground forces in Europe; and that, because of the lack of base facilities, would have resupply difficulties after the opening round in either conventional or nuclear war.

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4. Mr. Sullivan wants us to brief Senator Nunn along these same lines in late October. He asked that we focus particularly on the warning time question; the reliability of the European satellites; and lay out the steps which have taken place in weapons standardization. He also asked that we try to determine any relationship between US-West German cooperation on tank production and Bonn's more forthcoming approach to standardization.

5. It probably would be desirable to have the same briefing team for Senator Nunn as they are now familiar with the general line of questioning. All hands will be notified when we receive a date.

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